Library Copy

Musket

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL Vol. LII, Issue 5 June 2008

Senate Enacts Library Pass Policy

By Mark Fusunyan

On May 7th, the Lexington High School Student Senate signed off on the Library Passes Bill, which allows students to bypass study halls and go straight to the library with their passes. After their study hall block, students are then supposed to give their passes to their dean's secretaries. The bill passed largely without opposition, garnering a broad consensus among the Senators.

Under the previous system, students had to report to their study halls before and after going to the library. The system caused, according to the Library Passes Bill's proponents, a significant loss of "library study time." In addition, the previous system involved excessive oversight. Library timestamps marking entrance and departure times already ensured that students with passes actually went to the library.

The original incarnation of the Library Passes Bill was created two years ago. Senator Mark Chonofsky said that "It was killed two years ago through the concerted effort of some upperclassmen." The bill was vetoed by Principal Jones last year. Lexington High School Faculty Senator Jim Williams said that this occurred "because the Senate didn't build a strong case."

This year, the bill picked up support from the deans' secretaries because it was deemed more convenient and practical than the current system. Quite often, students would bypass their study halls and head straight to the libraries. Study hall teachers then would mark the students absent, resulting in detentions being unfairly assigned. The Deans' secretaries had to spend significant amounts of time sorting out and correcting these problems.

Jim Williams said that the convenience of the bill, "coupled with the fact that the bill gives kids more time in the library without compromising attendance issues" made its passage "a no-brainer." Similarly, Senator Andy Wu said "the Library Passes bill is a long-overdue improvement to the system. Students

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Tim Kenny

Assassins Coordinators Joey Colisimo, John Villanueva, and Karan Mudgal with winners Victoria Martinez and Adam Buczkowski

Assassins Game Continues Tradition

By Karan Mudgal

Back in the spring of 2005, as my freshman year wound down, the multitude of students running around town armed with water guns and spray bottles was hard to avoid. For many of us, this was our first introduction to the Lexington High School senior tradition of Assassins. The connotations of the game's name may be slightly harsh, but the game itself is a lasting, lighthearted way to end senior year.

After three years of watching the game, my friends and I approached the spring of 2008 noticing that no one had stepped up to the task of starting the game. So as to not miss the opportunity, myself, Karan Mudgal, and my classmates Joey Colosimo and Francis Chen set the gears of the game into motion. We used a Facebook group to build interest, and waited patiently for a few weeks as seniors procrastinated on payments for the game. In order to reach out to all the different social segment of the senior class, we employed the help of three or four more students.

The general rules of Assassins are somewhat self-evident- kill your target with water; take their target and keep going- but this year, official rules were drawn up carefully to prevent confusion. I've heard many complaints that the fun of the game decreased, but ultimately, these measures seemed actually to have increased the game' success.

Midway through the game, a news piece by WCVB News placed Assassins in the public eye. Although the LHS administration denounced the game because of the complaints the school had been receiving, the news piece gave a fair and balanced review of the game, writing it off as harmless fun.

I maintain that the game was all in good fun; however, the actions and judgment of many of my classmates when there was over $1000 on the line were occasionally pitiful. Although the vast majority of students played the game well, there were numerous occasions where we, the judges, were baffled by the logic that some possessed.

When the going got tough, Joey and I decided to limit the judging to two people as to avoid participants setting judges against one another in terms of their decision. Thus, for the last three weeks of the game, judging the game fell on the shoulders of Jonathan Villanueva and I. After the first few elimination rounds people became more desperate. For instance, I received a complaint from a participant's mother because the girl's assassin had barged into her house uninvited. Crossing the same line of common sense, another participant lay outside a bank near his target's workplace in his car with a

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Incoming Principal Cohen Discusses Career, Outlook

By Abha Gallewale

As the school year comes to an end, it's time to look ahead to September, when incoming freshmen will be welcomed by a new principal. Natalie Cohen, who is currently serving as assistant principal at Weston High School, opened up to the Musket in order to share a bit more about herself.

Cohen knew she was destined to be an educator since her childhood. As an adolescent, she loved to attend school and was inspired by her Chemistry and English high school teachers to pursue a career in education. For her, working at an educational institution would ensure that she would spend her "working life doing something that [she] could truly love everyday."

Cohen successfully achieved her dream and happily worked as an English teacher for over twenty years, accepting positions at Naperville Central High School (Naperville, IL), Weston High School (Weston, CT), and The Bromfield School (Harvard, MA) before teaching in Weston, MA. During her years as an English teacher, she "learned to think deeply about teaching and learning." Said Cohen, "I was fortunate to work with students and teachers who were naturally very curious and very invested in the learning process." After being promoted to the English Department Chairman position in Weston, she was finally awarded the honor of serving as assistant principal. Instead of being overwhelmed by the sudden ascension, Cohen saw the administrative career as an alternate form of teaching and comfortably settled in. LHS can be confident in knowing that she will adjust to her new position as LHS principal just as easily.

When asked what she looked forward to at LHS, Cohen replied that she was impressed with the school's "breadth of the program offerings, the diverse community, and the great pride in achievement." She is excited to serve as principal for a school that is three times larger than that which she currently teaches at.

While she understands the differences in responsibility that will come from serving as a full-fledged principal, Cohen hopes to rely on the "very collaborative, involved management style" that she has developed during her time as an administrator.

Remaining diplomatic regarding the changes that she expects to make to LHS upon her arrival, she explains that she will "look forward to learning how I can support the needs of LHS students and teachers." LHS certainly looks forward to meeting you, Principal Natalie Cohen.

Herff Jones Endorses Rules

By Mark Chonofsky

Herff Jones recently endorsed OXFAM's "Golden Rules," important commitments toward responsible gold mining, following a request from the LHS Senate.

The move comes after discussion of the "Gold Bill," which would have prevented any ring company from selling rings at LHS if it did not endorse those rules. The bill, though worded generally, was explicitly targeted at Herff Jones, because its primary competitors, Balfour and Jostens, have both endorsed the rules.

The company was quick to endorse the rules. "Social responsibility is a core value at Herff Jones," noted Pete Slamkowski, the Vice President of Scholastic Operations at Herff Jones. He also noted that the company's board is actively engaged in charitable outreach activities.

"It had just never been brought to their attention," noted Ms. Mechem. "I always knew they'd do the right thing."

The Senate unanimously passed a resolution commending Herff Jones for its actions.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Faustbuch Is A Devilish Delight

By Abha Gallewale

On a typical weekday afternoon, students hurry to prepare for a tennis match or meet friends at Peet's. But, for a time, a select group headed for the auditorium to rehearse for Faust, this year's spring play. Centering on the life of the protagonist, Faustbuch, portrayed by Andy Short, the play also starred Mikel McCavana, Kate Henoch, Selena Lane, Gabi Goszczynska, and the unforgettable Grant Patch, who played Lucifer.

The production began with the audition process, in which director Steve Bogart watched actors reading monologues and dialogues from their prospective roles. "I practiced [an excerpt from the script] a few different times until the method in which I did it felt right," said actor James Swanson.

Unlike most schools, LHS' audition process allows the actors to watch others audition, and actually encourages them to use techniques from other performances. Assisted by Meagan Schneiderman and alumnus Ian Michaels, Mr. Bogart tried combining different students in different roles until he settled on the perfect combination.

Rehearsals began with readthroughs, when the members of the ensemble were assigned roles. Next was the exploration process, in which the actors explored the emotions and personalities that could be expressed by their character, and then grew by "applying [their] own lines to those emotions." Warm-up exercises were essential throughout the production. Some were purely used for concentration and were used on especially

Becky Pittore

Calvin Iverson and Gabi Goszczynska gleefully await curtain call

tiring school days. Others were designed to help guide the actors into their characters. For example, one warm-up popular on show nights consisted of the actors imagining a ball of energy and following it wherever it took them.

Because of the relatively small cast, the actors were always kept busy, often splitting up to rehearse certain scenes. "People would be in the Blackbox, working on characters, and then other people would be down [in the auditorium] so it was really working all the time," said Mikel McCavana, who portrayed the evil Mephistopheles. Although three-hour rehearsals could be exhausting, the actors enjoyed every moment, as they bonded with each other in the open and comfortable atmosphere. "There was one day when we were first working on Act II when I just thought differently," said Selena Lane, who played Martha. "This entire play is about learning and building your character through the moment and not how you preconceived it," she added. "I didn't know so many things about acting before this play!" exclaimed Gabi Goszczynska, who played Margaret.

Many of the actors managed to juggle other extra-curricular activities with spring play rehearsals. Gabi is a serious dancer and Selena runs year-round. Both girls had starring roles in the play and upheld their previous commitments.

As opening night neared, the cast and crew prepared the production's finishing touches. "Everyone [was] trying to be much more concentrated. I still [thought] we [were] trying to have fun with it. We [had] a lot of different facets that [were] nonconventional," James said excitedly. "It seems really cool," said Gabi. There were a lot of interactive features to the production, so audience members should have expected a few surprises.

Kanye Glows In The Dark

By Zach Miller

On May 15, after much anticipation, Kanye West brought the Glow In The Dark tour to New England. The Tweeter Center in Mansfield hosted West, along with the skater/rapper Lupe Fiasco, the alternative rock-rap group N.E.R.D, and the hip-hop singer Rihanna.

The show commenced with Lupe Fiasco, who played, along with his three other vocalists, jazz-inspired rap songs alongside his radio hits. Lupe's flow was on point, and as soon as one of the vocalists started to sing the chorus to "Super Star" everyone was on their feet and singing along. Lupe's set was slightly hampered by timing, in that he was the first performer so the crowd was still arriving.

Kanye West collaborated with Japanese artist Takashi Murakami on his latest album cover and the music video.

Following Lupe was the rock-rap group N.E.R.D. N.E.R.D, comprising Pharrell Williams, Chad Hugo of The Neptunes, and Shay Hayley, came out with their first album In Search Of... in 2001, which brought a unique mix of rock, funk, and rap into the mainstream. Despite their lesser celebrity, their set was well received by the audience. No attendee could possibly forget their performance of "She Wants To Move"- let's just say, the woman who got up on stage to dance had a dress that was a tad too small for her "physique."

Rihanna was the last performance before the main attraction. Since "Pon De Replay," which propelled her to the top of the charts, Rihanna has transformed from "that cute girl from the Barbados" to a more dark and sexual persona sporting Gothesque attire and a cropped haircut. It's a shame, though, that Rihanna's performance didn't match her edgy style. Whether the mixing was done poorly, or her microphone volume was low for a reason, it seemed as if no one could hear her sing. Although her vocals weren't at their best, the crowd sang along to the beat and carried her performance. Rihanna's choreographed and relatively poppy music was a contrast to the other performers'

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Play Provides Provocative Look at Male Friendship

By Rivka Barrett

This past April, I went to the Merrimack Repertory Theatre in Lowell, Massachusetts to see a play, The Four of Us. The Four of Us, written by Itamar Moses, is a comic drama featuring two best friends named David, played by Jed Orlemann, and Benjamin, played by Bhavesh Patel; Benjamin is an aspiring novelist, while David hopes to make a living as a playwright. At the start of the play, Benjamin has struck a two-million dollar deal with a publishing company. David tries to be happy for his friend, while worrying that Benjamin's success will inflate his ego.

For the next six months, Benjamin travels on a book tour and grows distant from David, who struggles with his playwriting. During a monologue where he appears to be speaking to an audience about his book, Benjamin says he feels disconnected from his public persona and is clearly uncomfortable in the spotlight. At the same time, David becomes more insecure about his friendship with Benjamin. In one scene, he excitedly tells Benjamin about his one-night stand with a British girl. Initially acting disgusted and puritanical, Benjamin then demands details and acts out the scene with a giant stuffed bear, a decidedly cheap yet effective gag. David realizes that for once, Benjamin is jealous of him, and takes a picture to commemorate the moment, inducing laughter from the audience.

The tables then turn: David's new play is accepted by a publishing company, as Benjamin is struggling to find another publisher for his novel. It just so happens that David's play is based on his friendship with Benjamin, casting Benjamin is a somewhat negative light. This brings the tension in their friendship to the surface. The play's conclusion deals with the two friends' resolution of that tension. In the closing scene, David answers that they'll always be friends, and concludes by quoting a line from The Lion King: "Someday, Simba. All of this. Everything the light touches. Will be part of your kingdom."

Many believe that The Four of Us is a loosely autobiographical piece, portraying Moses' friendship with Jonathan Safran Foer, who wrote the successful novel Everything is Illuminated. While the play has some solemn moments, other scenes are more lighthearted, striking a good balance between the serious and the comedic. The history of David's and Benjamin's friendship unfolds itself through flashbacks. While such scenes are effective in showing how the friendship changes, they also create a somewhat jumbled, confused quality. Overall, though, the play works very well.

If you ever feel like seeing a good play, by all means go to the Merrimack Repertory Theater. It's only fifteen minutes from Lexington. Check it out this summer!

New Library Pass Bill Enacted

Continued from page 1

will be able to save time and energy because they won't have to make that initial, unnecessary trip to their study halls[to get the study hall teacher's signature]."

The only debate about the Library Passes Bill centered on two relatively minor issues. There were questions raised about the time stamp machine in the library. Senator Andy Wu said that the Senate "sent someone to test the machine and it worked O.K.." The other point of contention revolved around extensions of Library Passes Bill to include teacher help and music practice room passes. Several senators voted against the bill because they were not included.

One of the concerns about a similar bill considered last year was that it would put an undue burden on both the school librarians and the house secretaries. Each of those groups agreed, however, they could live with the new bill before its passage.

The Library Passes Bill was signed by Principal Michael Jones and will go into effect during the 2008-2009 school year .

Amnesty Joins Rights Protest

By Deana LaFauci

On April 11, 2008, Lexington High School's Amnesty International group joined over 1,000 human rights activists in New York City to take part in the annual "Get on the Bus" Campaign.

"Get on the Bus for Human Rights" began in 1996, when a group of thirty Amnesty members from Somerville traveled to New York City to protest various human rights abuses. "Get on the Bus" is now one of Amnesty International's largest events, and is attended by hundreds of high school and college students in Massachusetts annually.

Each year, leaders of "Get on the Bus" choose specific actions they wish to protest. Last year, "Get on the Bus" focused its protest efforts on China's irresponsible business dealings in Sudan which have contributed to the genocide in Darfur. This year activists, including Lexington High School students, focused on protesting the lack of free speech in Sri Lanka, the imprisonment of Fathi El-Jahmi in Libya, human rights abuses in Myanmar (Burma) and the continued freedom of war criminals in Sudan.

The day began at St. Bartholomew's church, where a panel of speakers conveyed the importance of the day's protests. Mohamed el-Jahmi spoke passionately about the necessity of the unconditional release of his brother, Fathi el-Jahmi, who is currently imprisoned in Libya for speaking out for political reform.

Although Mohamed e-Jahmi currently lives in Massachusetts, he stated that his family in Libya has been harassed for his brother's calls for human rights. El-Jahmi also stated that he was hopeful that a protest of such magnitude in New York City would have a positive effect on his brother's imprisonment and his family's situation in Libya.

"Mohamed el-Jahmi's speech calling for the unconditional release of his brother was especially touching. I had read about Fathi el-Jahmi's imprisonment in Libya before, but hearing his brother speak so lovingly about him really added another level of urgency to the issue for me," said Emma Kantrov.

The first protest of the day was at the Libyan consulate, where

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NEWS/SPORTS

Nordstrom Brings Delectable, Affordable Dining to the Mall

By Mia Karnofsky

Dining in a department store has been uncommon in Massachusetts since the rise of suburban malls after the 1960s. Before this, families or groups of friends would spend the day shopping in one store and then stay for a meal. But with discrete shops and chain restaurants or food courts, shopping malls long ago obliterated lingering for hours in one retail store. However, upscale department stores could be reversing this with chic new restaurants.

After months of renovating, Nordstrom opened this year at the Burlington Mall and the recently christened Natick Collection. As with several other designer boutiques, it brought a more luxurious appeal to both locations. Within the department store itself, Nordstrom also brought something to offer for the gourmand in all of us.

Café Bistro, the Natick Collection's member of the new restaurant division, is one of four dining concepts which are "developed regionally", according to Nordstrom's website.

It is a modern, inviting alternative to greasy food court options. The comfortable restaurant feels casual, but the food and décor are sophisticated.

Although our food came fairly quickly and our waitress was excellent, the ordering system was a little strange. When we entered the restaurant, which is located next to the juniors section, we were given a menu. We placed our order and paid at a cash register, and then sat ourselves by a window.

The menu includes classic but creative salads, soups, sandwiches, and pasta. The Herb Salad with salmon (about $14), was very good and just the right size for lunch. At only $2, the french fries were hot and delicious.

Convenient and affordable, Café Bistro is probably the best place in the mall to surprise and satisfy culinary aficionados. There is a lot of variety on the menu, especially as far as salads. Nordstrom seems to be bringing back the combination of shopping and dining in the same place.

Recognizing this clever marketing strategy, Bloomingdale's also plans to open a health food restaurant in the Chestnut Hill store this summer.

Wagamama Makes Stateside Debut

By Michelle Ho

Who knew a noodle bar could serve up some solid life advice along with delicious ramen? At Wagamama, "positive eating + positive living" is the rule to live by. This London-based chain of restaurants mixes functionality with style to create an atmosphere to match the tasty dishes it offers. In a world where Asian-fusion foods have become predictable, Wagamama offers a fresh take on the concept of noodles, transforming ramen from standard college dorm chow to metropolitan chic.

Wagamama maintains elegance despite fast food-like elements

According to the latest Zagat ratings, Wagamama is the most popular restaurant in London and has spread with international acclaim to places such as Amsterdam, Cairo, Zurich and Dubai. Wagamama has opened only two U.S. locations, both around the Boston area: one at 57 JFK Street in Harvard Square and the other in Faneuil Hall.

The menu features a wide selection of ramen (noodles in broth), soba (whole-wheat noodles), chili men (noodles in a spicy sauce), kare (noodles in a coconut based soup), teppan (noodles cooked on a hot griddle) as well as rice, curry, and many side dishes. Favorites include Japanese style gyoza, or dumplings, and edamame with salt or chili garlic sauce. Main dishes cost about ten dollars, and the decently sized portions are well worth it.

While the menu is enough to turn heads and taste buds, the Wagamama atmosphere is innovative and stimulating as well. The sleek appearance and large open space give the impression of a modern and stylish cafeteria. Its signature long wooden tables and benches can fit up to 20 people. Convenient shelves under the tables stash bags and coats. Orders are sent via handheld computer directly to the kitchen and food is brought out as soon as it is made. The service is fast, but the food is better than typical fast-food quality. The no-reservation policy has lines forming out the doors in London, but the Boston Wagamamas can seat and feed over 130 people, so waiting is hardly ever a problem.

While Wagamama's food is fresh and flavorful, anyone looking for authentic Japanese noodles should bear in mind that Wagamama strives to be modernistic and innovative, sometimes forgoing the authenticity of its dishes. The subtle flavors of delicate Japanese cuisine are knocked out at Wagamama, in preference for spicy and salty punches that dominate the dishes. Nonetheless, Wagamama serves up steamy satisfaction in every bowl of noodles. A perfect excuse to slurp, lip-smack, and smile.

Kanye West At Tweeter Center

Continued from page 2

sets, but she offered a nice change in pace with her lighter, fun, and particularly danceable style. Her cover of "Paper Planes"" by M.I.A. was quite cool.

Around 10:00 PM, Kanye took the stage. Kanye's performance was fueled by a quirky fictive biography: after searching the universe for new inspiration, he had crashed on a wasteland of a planet, leaving just himself and his spaceship's computerized personality, Jane. This narrative was portrayed by colorful fog and projected galaxies and planets against the back wall of the stage.

Kanye used this story to narrate his set, and even though the songs might not have been fully relevant to a space traveler's journey, they were still ordered well. For example, Kanye started off his performance, lying on the ground, with "Good Morning." At the point in the story when he recognizes his inability to leave the mysterious planet, the beat of "All Falls Down" began to play. After that moment, Journey's "Don"t Stop Believing" was played, prompting Kanye to reattempt his return. At times, the dialogue between Kanye and his spaceship was entertaining. When Jane tried to woo Kanye by presenting an image of a woman in a bikini, one had to feel a little sorry for Kanye's solitary state.

The underlying narrative elucidated a theme: it is just Kanye, and Kanye alone. This works both for and against West. He certainly holds his own, and it was impressive that he could perform with abundant energy for over an hour with no one else onstage. Kanye rapped with force and emotion, committing fully to the music; by the second or third song, sweat was visibly dripping from his face. His dance moves were a sight to see, even if many of them were just spasms on the ground.

However, at times West conveyed an egotistical rather than lonesome demeanor. Kanye"s band, at the back of the stage, was only displayed once. The interaction between Kanye and the crowd was shaky- more than a few people were sick of singing "now my grandmamma ain't the only girl calling me baby" over and over during "Good Life," per West's request. ""Hey Mama," the song dedicated to his mother, who recently passed away, did not elicit much engagement from the crowd.

It was all about Kanye, and that was made abundantly clear. Not one of the other talented performers joined Kanye onstage. After "Touch The Sky," many inquired after the whereabouts of Lupe Fiasco, who is usually featured in the song. It's not easy to picture all these artists turning down the chance to sing with Kanye.

To the disappointment of many, Jay-Z did not perform with Kanye either, as he did the year before on a similar tour, even though he was in town and went to the Celtics game the night before. Ironically, West topped off his set with a speech about how no one should feel bad about being cocky.

"21" Film Strays Too Far From Book

By Hannah Rosenberg

"21" could have been a huge success with its intricate plot and its view of the "glamorous" casino life. However, I say "could" because it falls short of the spectacular Oscar winner I was promised by reviewers and interviews.

Based on the book Bringing Down the House by Ben Mezrich, the plot follows five extremely gifted math students from M.I.T. The audience is introduced to M.I.T. student Ben Campbell (Jim Sturgess), a shy but exceptional math student who needs $300,000 to attend Harvard Medical School. One of his professors, Micky Rosa, played by Kevin Spacey, notices his talent and invites him to join Rosa's club. In this club, students travel to Las Vegas every weekend armed with fake identities to play blackjack. The students make thousands of dollars by counting cards, using a complicated math formula. The players use probability to gain advantage over the dealer.

Ben is reluctant to join the club at first, but he soon finds that he can make lots of money. He promises that he will only play long enough to fund his medical school education, but his card counting addiction soon spirals out of control. He loses friends and his grades drop. Ben also finds himself highly infatuated with an uninterested fellow club member played by Kate Bosworth.

The Las Vegas setting with bright lights, glamorous hotel casinos and high fashion disguises make the film aesthetically appealing, however, the costume and set design crew are the only people who deserve applause. Viewers who know the true story may realize that much of the plot does not adhere to reality.

For example, in real life, the majority of the group members were Asian American, but in the film they are played by Caucasians. The romance in the movie is made-up in order to entertain the viewers. Parts of the film are extremely unrealistic, and it is unclear how underage students live such a life of glamour without (for the most part) getting caught. The acting is mediocre, but the ending is gratifying and provides decent closure.

"21" is a satisfactory film. The extensive plot line and eye appeal overshadow mediocre acting and unrealistic aspects. Although parts were lengthy, restlessness was not apparent in the theater. I did not leave the theater totally disappointed. "21" is definitely worth seeing, but I would suggest renting; save your money for more Oscar potential.

Musket

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Jose Burke	U.S. Marines
Johnny Bush Jr	
John Caldarella	
Samuel Calvin	University of Rhode Island
Kris Camelio	Salem State College
Naomi Campbell	Washington University in St. Louis
Katherine Carper	University of Colorado, Boulder
Brendan Casey	Colby College
Ethan Cecchetti	Brown University
Dean Chaffee	Working
Stephen Chang	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Alan Chaulet	Bentley College
Cynthia Chen	Washington University in St. Louis
Francis Chen	Waseda University
Patrick Chen	
Helen Chen	Tufts University
Sway Chen	Harvard University
Yung-Lien Cheng	Northwestern University
Laura Chew	University of Vermont
Angela Chiccarelli	Roger Williams University
Mariah Chitouras	DePaul University
Vivian Chow	
Winnie Chow	Boston University
Anna Christian	Tufts University
Ronan Christman	Gap year in Ghana, then Lawrence University
Emma Chung	Wellesley College
Kyle Churchill	
Sara Cleaver	University of Miami
Elisenda Cochin	George Washington University
Alexander Cohen	Northwestern University
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Henrik Cotran	Wesleyan University
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Anthony Duggan	University of New Hampshire
Jonathan Dunham	University of New Hampshire
Andrew Dunn	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Nathaniel Durant	Wesleyan University
Alexandra Earle	Babson College
Jacqueline Easton	Bates College
Molly Eisenberg	University of Oregon
Daniel Elkin	Ohio Wesleyan University
David Entin	Bentley College
Bennett Erickson	Franklin and Marshall College
Alyssa Ettinger	Tufts University
David Evans	Carnegie Mellon University
Kaitlin Evanson	Duquesne University
Curt Everett	Westfield State College
Lily Eyraud	Clemson University
Shun Fan	Duke University
Daniel Feehan	
Emily Fenn	University of Delaware
Christina Finch	Connecticut College
Caroline Fink	Hofstra University
Katherine Finneran	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Lauren Flanagan	University of New Hampshire
Lauren Flanders	University of Maine, Honors College
Sydney Fleischmann	Boston University
Anna Flowers	New York University
Toby Forman	Manhattan School of Music
Grant Forstall	Wake Forest University
Michael Foster	University of Colerado, Boulder
James Foster	University of Connecticut
Mia Frattura	
Spencer Frenchman	George Washington University
Alexandra Fretts	Syracuse University
Ceanna Fried	University of Vermont
Natalie Friedman	Northwestern University
Mark Fusunyan	Harvard University
Michael Gabriner	University of Vermont
Lucas Gallardo	Hofstra University
Miranda Gallinelli	Rivier College
Jayashree Gandhi	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Rachel Gants	Yale University
Daniel Garmon	McGill University- Schulich School of Music
Cynthia Garvin	Colby College
Tyler Gelnaw	Connecticut College
Valerie Gilbert	Syracuse University
Caroline Gildea	Salve Regina University
Max Gillett	Carnegie Mellon University
Annie Golovcsenko	Gettysburg College
Mark Goodwin	Taking a year off, then University of Maine
Joshua Gordon	McGill University
Brittany Grabel	Kenyon College
Olga Gritsevskaya	
William Grogan	Plymouth State University
Dianyra Grullon	Bridgewater State College
Richard Guerra	Curry College
Mark Guttag	Brown University
Shabbir Hakim	Boston College
Catherine Halliday	Drew University
Hanna Halperin-Goldstein	Kenyon College
Kari Halvorsen	Saint Josephs University
Sara Harari	Tufts University School of Engineering
Samir Haroon	Boston University
Kai Harris	Occidental University
Cooper Harrison	
Tobias Hartranft	Drew University
Jaclyn Harvell	Merrimack College
Tara Healey	
Leif Hede-Brierley	Boston University
Christine Heffernan	Colgate University
Jared Henshaw	University of Maine, Orono
Jorge Hernandez	
Michael Hibberd	
Victoria Hines	Northeastern University
Christopher Hoder	Colby College
Najeeb Hossain	University of Pittsburgh
Tammy Hsieh	Tufts University
Brendan Hsu	University of Illinois
Jeremiah Huang	Emory University
Andrew Hughes	
Jenny Claire Hunt	Clark University
Patrick Hunter	University of Vermont
Larsen Husby	Macalester College
Saewon Hwang	Rhode Island School of Design
Lindsay Hylek	Colby College
Maxwell Inouye	University of Miami
Lawrence Irving	University of Maine
Sophia Isaak	University of Vermont
Calvin Iverson	Syracuse University
Elana Jabbour	Wheaton College
Tiffany Jack	
Lisa Jacob	New York University
Claire Jenson	Oberlin College
Douglas Jette	University of Vermont
Gregory Johnson	Boston College
Benjamin Johnson	Georgetown University
Taylor Johnson	
Kenneth Johnson	University of Vermont
Michelle Johnson	
Anne Johnston	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Victoria Jones	Barnard College
Elise Jones	University of Rhode Island
Evan Jones	Roger Williams University
Christine Joyce	Bucknell University
Caroline Justice	University of Connecticut
Christina Kalsow-Ramos	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Enoch Kan	University of Rochester
Yuki Kanai	Lasell College
Benjamin Kane	Roger Williams University
Beata Kanter	Parsons New School for Design
Emma Kantrov	University of Vermont
E-Jay Kao	Boston University
Jessica Kaplan-Bie	Taking a gap year, traveling to India
Emily Kase	Cornell University
Edison Kelley	Minuteman
Leo Kelley	Minuteman
Lisa Kelly	Boston University
Ann Morgan Kelly	University of Virginia
Michael Kent	Merrimack College
Eric Kern	Rochester Institute of Technology
Elizabeth Kernan	
Kristine Keverian	George Washington University
Nairi Khachatourian	Boston University
Preeya Khanna	University of Pennsylvania
Lilia Kilburn	Amherst College
Justine Kim	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Sam Kim	
Victoria Kim	Emerson College
Tiffany Kim	Mount Holyoke College
Hee Kimm	
Diana Kole	New York University

The Musket is proud to present "Senior Destinations," our annual compilation of the various plans for the graduating Class of 2008. This information has been submitted by students voluntarily to *The Musket* and has no relation to any information being gathered by the Guidance Department or Registrar. This list may not be reproduced without written permission.

Heather Kozin	Boston College
Michael Krant	American University
Zachary Kreider	
Sienna Kurland	Bowdoin College
Hadley Kyle	Clark University
Laura Lacey	
Deana LaFauci	Simmons College
Andrew Lai	
Thomas Lamar	Olin College
Mariah Lancaster	University of Colorado, Boulder
Selena Lane	Washington University in St. Louis
Gleb Lapukhin	
Jonathan Larsen	
Daniel Lawler	
Conor Leahy	Columbia College of Chicago
Denise Lee	Trinity College
Dana Lee	Clark University
Cynthia Lee	New York University
Timothy Lee	Gordon Collegev
Jun-Woo Lee	Penn State University
Benjamin Lees	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Simon Lehar	Northeastern University
Jenna Lempesis	Mount Holyoke College
Gregory Leonelli	Boston University
Max Lerman	Boston University
Isaac Levin	
Erica Levin	Mount Holyoke College
Rebecca Levine	Endicott College
Michael Levine	Clemson University
Lucas Levy	Oberlin Conservatory
Julia Levy	Cornell University
Charelle Lewis	
Elizabeth Li	Brandeis University
Christopher Li	Notre Dame University
Joshua Lifton	Northeastern University
Celina Lin	New York University
Yu Lin	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Stacey Linehan	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Samuel Lipschutz	George Washington University
Daniel Ljungberg	Oberlin College
Alexis Lloyd	
Ten Loh	Cornell University
Gregory Lowen	Brown University
Rebecca Luberoff	Bryn Mawr College
Anna Luberoff	Smith College
Jared Lucas	Lehigh University
Coline Ludwig	Colby College
Menemsha MacBain	McGill University
Paula Macdonald	Boston University
Rebecca Mackley	Smith College
Brendan Magauran	
Elizabeth Mandle	Boston College
Christian Manhard	Champlain College
Alexander Marshall	American University
Victoria Martinez	Harvard University
Leila Marvel	
Graham Marvin	New York University
Alyssa Mauriello	
Michael Mazur	
Mikel McCavana	Bowdoin College
Audrey McCullough	University of New Hampshire
Allison McDonald	Drew University
Keith McHugh	Pomona College
Amanda McKenna	Northeastern University
Ryan McNabb	Bentley College
Gemma McWaters	University of Hartford
Marion Merifield	
Edward Meyers	University of Miami
Sam Miake-Lye	King's College London
Clara Miller	Merrimack College
Shelley Mo	Northwestern University
Kathleen Molgaard	
Michaela Moloney	
Michael Monovoukas	Princeton University
Charlotte Morgan	
Samantha Morgan	University of Vermont
Paul Morrissey	
Karan Mudgal	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Giovanni Nardella	Suffolk University
Dina Nash	
Katherine Neumann	Taking a semester off
Rebecca Newman	McDaniel College
Ryan Novelline	Rhode Island School of Design
Seung Ho Kevin Oh	Syracuse University
Laura Olivier	Washington University in St. Louis
Edward O'Neil	Marymount Manhattan
Kate O'Neil	Roger Williams University
Thomas Osborn	Saint Joseph's College of Maine
Mackenzie Owades	Clark University
Nicholas Page	School of Visual Art
Quinten Palmer	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Eugene Park	Syracuse University
Chelsea Parrish	Emerson College
Timothy Parsons	Manhattan School of Music
Ethan Pastel	
Nicholas Paster	Villanova University
Merrick Pastore	Emory University
Grant Patch	Colby College
Shama Pathan	
Isaac Pato	University of Oklahoma
Michael Pavio	Lehigh University
Amudha Pazhanisamy	
Max Perkins	Lesley College
Rachel Perlman	Cornell University
Lauren Petroff	University of Delaware
Sarah Phat	Case Western Reserve University
Shachi Phene	Bates College
Sohini Pillai	Wellesley College
Amanda Pinto	
Heather Pisano	Mass College of Art
Michael Pogran	Washington University in St. Louis
Lauren Pollins	
Samuel Pollock	Quinnipiac University
Daniel Popiel	
Samuel Powers	Hampshire College
Yun Qiao	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Patricia Quartararo	Salem State College
Alexander Quatrano	Washington University in St. Louis
Caitlin Quigley	University of Maryland
Jonathan Raberg	Carleton College
Adnan Ramic	Syracuse University
Leeann Randolph	
Kelly Rapp	Indiana University
Cameron Rawnsley	Salem State College
James Raymond	
Jonathan Reny	American University
Brian Reynolds	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Erica Rhodin	Cornell University
Brianna Riccio	University of Rhode Island
Yuri Riley	Taking a gap year
James Rim	Salem State College
Isabelle Rindlisbacher	Middlesex Community College
Benjamin Roberts	Berklee College of Music
Elan Rochbert	Springfield College
Marion Rockwood	Oberlin College
Caroline Rossi	Clark University
Elias Rothfeld	University of San Francisco
Angana Roy	
Diana Rubin	Taking a year off
Nicole Russo	Framingham State College
Jackson Salisbury	Chapman University
Lauren Salter	Emory University
Olivia Samia	Miami University of Ohio
Ruchama Sanon	Salem State College
Scott Saveriano	Trinity College
Meagan Schneiderman	Juniata College
Max Schonberger	Northeastern University
Gabriel Schonfeld	George Washington University
Katie Schultz	
Esther Schwartz	Taking a gap year
Zev Schwartz	Rhode Island School of Design
Joseph Servi	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Hayley Sharfin	Cornell University
Kush Sharma	Bentley College
Kartikeya Shastri	Cornell University
Devin Shaw	University of Maine
Daniel Shaw	Middlebury College
Tsung-Tang Shen	Babson College
Timothy Shih	University of Indiana
Gabriel Shirley	Boston College
Andrew Short	New York University, Tisch School
Veronica Shurgalin	
Elizabeth Sibert	University of California, San Diego
Molly Siegel	Swarthmore College
Erik Silva	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Jordan Simard	Becker College
Maxine Singleton	
Irene Smail	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Lee Smith	Bates College
Blake Smith	George Washington University
Benjamin Smith	Harvard University
Jamie Smith	
Jeffrey Snyder	A year off, then Princeton University
Mitchel Soliman	Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Joy Solomon	Zion Bible College
Nicole Sousa	University of Rhode Island
Allison Sowsy	University of Connecticut
Meera Sriram	George Washington University
Charles Steiner	
David Sterman	Dartmouth University
Alexander Stone	
Natasha Stots	
Lila Strominger	Harvard College
Amanda Su	Columbia University
Rhyan Sullivan	Tulane University
Alex Sullivan	U.S. Military Academy - West Point
Raphael Sweet	Wheaton College
Maia Taft	Gap year in India, then Connecticut College
Zechariah Tan	Brown University
Alec Tandara-Kuhns	
Scott Tavares-Taylor	Tilton School
Nicole Taylor	Regis College
Lily Teitelbaum	Going to Ghana
Jonathan Teng	University of Indiana
Mariel Terceiro	Clark University
Ann Thomas	
Clifford Thompson	Tulane University
Caroline Thuma	University of Kentucky
Amanda Ting	University of Miami
Callie Tingley	Westfield State College
Tasman Tobey	High Point University
Cathleen Tocci	
Jessica Tokko	Gordon College
Lara Townzen	Emory University
Scott Trabucco	Ithaca College
Susanna Tracy	Lehigh University
Gregory Trakimas	
Stephen Tsaur	Carnegie Mellon University
Nena Ugwuomo	Howard University
Nyle Usmani	Bowdoin College
Anisha Vachani	Wellesley College
Jennifer Vernick	University of Denver
Jonathan Villanueva	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Samuel Walker	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Jonathan Wan	Skidmore College
Katherine Wang	Northwestern University
Jason Wang	
Xu Wang	University of Rochester
Lan Wang	
David Wang	Tufts University
Ethan Ward	
Idan Warsawski	Boston University
Jesse Weeks	Tufts University
Daniel Weinberg	Emory University
Jonathan Wentzell	Westfield State University
Ginger Willinger	Ohio Wesleyan University
Sarah Wilson	Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Katherine Wilson	University of Miami
Elizabeth Wobbe	
Jeremy Wolf	Wesleyan University
Kevin Wong	
Katherine Woo	
Dylan Wood	Westfield State University
Katherine Woodcome	University of Vermont
Cory Woodward	University of New Hampshire
Nina Wright	
Andy Wu	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
David Wyman	Pomona College
Stephen Xu	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Shelly Yanushpolsky	New York University
Laura Yanushpolsky	New York University
Elena Yegian	Northeastern University
Frank Yin	Columbia University
Stephanie Yin	Washington University in St. Louis
Sun Yoo	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Batuhan Zadeh	UMass Dartmouth
Aybars Zadeh	
Alexander Zendeh	Whitman College
Stella Zewinski	
Jason Zhou	
Julia Zioto	St. Joseph's University
Molly Zuccaro	University of Connecticut

EDITORIALS

Community Service Needs Overhaul

By Andy Wu

The Senate Social Action committee was originally designed to promote volunteerism and student activism in the community. In our current role, we are more of a sieve that students throw community service forms at.

In 1987, when the service requirement was first established, the Student Activities Coordinator was responsible for monitoring community service hours. When the position was eliminated, the work of service verification was passed on to guidance counselors. For one reason or another, counselors shunned the responsibility. Thus, community service administration became the main role of the Senate Social Action Committee. And every week, for over the last dozen years, the Social Action Committee has met after school to read community service forms.

I didn't sign up to be on the committee; in fact, I was absent on the day senators signed up for committees, so I got stuck in Social Action. As a matter of civil responsibility, I proceeded to attend our after school meetings.

Clearly, reading community service forms is a mundane effort. The forms don't stop coming, and no one appreciates your work--but those are minor complaints. What really bothers me is the total lack of accountability in the system. Community service could easily be the most abused system in our high school. Here are some reasons why:

We do not have the manpower to call all the phone numbers on the forms. In fact, we don't call any of the phone numbers, nor do we check any of the signatures. Ostensibly, students who become aware that we don't call could submit forms dishonestly.

We have no record of what community service has been submitted. Once the form is approved by the committee, it is sent to guidance secretaries for data entry and filing. Thus, it is very possible to submit the same community service over and over, and continuously receive hours for it. You just have to hope that we don't notice--we probably won't--and even if we do, you can just claim that you never got your hours and just sent in another form to be safe.

But forget about the Senate Social Action Committee, because you can bypass us completely. There are many cases of students magically generating community service forms signed by their parents in the days before graduation. At that point, guidance counselors and school administrators are responsible for administering your community service. Even when they definitively know that there has been fraud, they will approve the hours. To this date, no student has ever been denied graduation for failing to meet the community service requirement.

If you haven't gotten the point yet, the point is this: you can completely make up community service and there is nothing we can do. Basically, the only thing we reject service for is missing information on your form, like your phone number or a signature. The phone numbers and signatures don't have to be real, of course, but something needs to be in the blank.

Why am I telling you this? It's my belief that the current community service system is a disservice to the community. It's likely that the Social Action Committee will play in a lesser role in the future, as the system becomes more automated. There may also be a new faculty member in charge of monitoring community service. But these fundamental problems will remain. We need parents and students to stand up against the system, even if that involves reaching a critical mass of fake community service.

All-Night Grad Party Ticket Shock

By Jeremy Wolf

As the end of our senior year approaches, the atmosphere of stress that's smothered us for four years changes. Teachers begin wrapping up classes in early May, and the senior countdown starts, but our class seems to have trouble counting. Or writing papers. Or passing tests. There's a buzz in the air, and yet, at the same time, my peers and I have never been so lazy. You can't find this duality anywhere but in the great "Senior Slump."

Tim Kenny

Club Crazy 8 is the theme of this year's all night graduation party

I, too, rode this wave of blissful lethargy. However, I was knocked off my moderately high horse when I received the invitation to the class of 08's "all-night graduation party." Ever since I was a freshman, this party had been glorified as a last hurrah for the seniors. But it came with a catch -- none other than a thirty-dollar ticket price.

No, thirty dollars won't empty my pockets, but I do believe there are significant reasons why the fee shouldn't exist, or, at the very least, should be much less.

I understand that one of the goals of the all-night bash is to keep the graduates out of trouble. However, for about one sixth of the all-night's price, a group of people could host and attend a much wilder post-graduation gathering. I myself favor the prospect of a controlled party, but I know that a more costly, if safer and more memorable, gala is much less appealing to many students. The school too often assumes that parents will pay for their teenager's school-related activities. But a lot of students will have to smash their own piggy banks in order to enter the field house on graduation night, which, again, casts the school-sponsored festivities in a cold light.

I think that, if done early enough, the fundraising for a substance-free party could have come from concerned parents. When I read the announcements sent out by Mary Trompeter, I noticed a call, highlighted in bright green, for parent volunteers to help set up the all-night. There was also a plea for parents' monetary contributions. Why did the school fix a particular price for students' attendance at the party before knowing how much money parents could raise to fund it?

This editorial is too little, too late, to fix the current senior class' "Club Crazy 8" party, but I hope that subsequent classes will try to decrease the prices of their own celebrations. Juniors, your graduation night will be here before you know it.

Please start thinking about it. Freshmen, you're not nearly as close to your countdown, but it doesn't hurt to plan ahead. Whether your class sponsors more events like weekend trips and dances, or sells more T-shirts, I now pass the torch of innovation onto you – I am slumping, after all.

Both Genders Pressured To Be Perfect

By Amanda Diagle

You've heard of the Women's Rights Movement. In the 1800s, women demanded equal treatment, and, in 1920, won suffrage rights. More reformations followed, and, today, women have much more freedom.

Before Women's Rights, girls really had only one option: to become flawless wives. No matter what individual dreams they had, girls spent their youths learning skills meant to make them attractive to potential spouses. In an article titled "Not Your Mother's Holiday," published in Chowk Magazine, Bina Shah writes that in present-day Pakistan, girls must "learn to do all the household chores, learn cooking, learn how to never answer back, learn how to look as though you wake up with full make up and blow dry every morning … if you don't be nice, you'll never get married and you'll go to hell, which in some circles is regarded as the same thing."

The U.S. has supposedly eliminated this particular pressure to be perfect. Yet, if you look at today's college application process, you'll notice a similar pressure affecting high school students of both genders. We spend our academic careers wooing colleges. We've tried to make perfect grades, take perfect classes, involve ourselves in perfect extra-curriculars, and apply for perfect internships. As sexism forced women to do, the academic ideal forces students to discard real ideas and interests.

As college acceptance rates fall, parents and students obsess. Will full-day Kindergarten help my child become a doctor? Should I take five APs next spring? Will Harvard want me?

Get this: not everyone needs to go to Harvard. 19th century-women assumed domestic duties, but not all enjoyed doing so. Likewise, some students love spending four years at a large, famous institution, while others chafe at the neck to be set free.

What we need is a college-style Feminist Movement to alter the craze over "name schools." Some schools happen to be more well-known than others. That doesn't mean they are the end-all, be-all, or even a great fit for every great student. Over 3,000 colleges in the US offer a place for all of us. Like the suffragists, students who take a different path may face jeers from peers who believe in a single measure of success. But, like the suffragists, these students can emerge victorious.

As a senior enrolled at one of her first choices for next fall, it may seem easy for me to give you underclassmen some patronizing advice. I've read countless books which exclaim, "Find the right college for you!" in what I imagine as a sickly sweet Susanna Sunshine voice.

Then, my well-intentioned parents warned me that job employers favor graduates from recognizable colleges. College-application-land is nutty. But I know that 1) you'll escape from it soon, and 2) you'll be happier if you find a school that gives you the freedom you deserve. After all, the majority of Americans told suffragists they would fail, but a few years from now, the nation may elect a female president.

Cheerleaders Deserve Respect

By Liran Weizman

Fans fill seats at Lexington High School's sports games. Students attend crowded Varsity Football games or Boys Varsity Basketball games where heat rises in the overcrowded gym, making it resemble a sauna.

But few spectators applaud the cheerleaders when they perform during half-time. Many LHS students subscribe to common myths about cheerleading. I've heard them say, "Cheerleaders are dumb" or "Cheerleading isn't a sport."

Before this year, I also misunderstood cheerleading. My knowledge of it came mostly from "Bring It On." I mocked my squad-friends' miniskirts and called cheerleading light exercise.

This fall, I decided to try out for the squad. No one felt more shocked than I did. I wasn't "cheerleading material." I didn't list "shopping" in my Facebook activities. I lacked previous dance or cheerleading experience.

I tried out in December. The field house lacked heat. I wore sweatpants and a big shirt, realizing my mistake when other girls showed up in mini shorts and tank tops.

I felt totally unprepared. Many girls there had already participated in Football Cheerleading, so even some of the freshmen trying out had more experience than I did. After tryouts, I thought I'd be cut. To my amazement, though, I made it.

I wasn't a fabulous cheerleader. Frequently late to practices, I paid the penalty of running two extra laps around the field house. My jumps were far from spectacular. I forgot cheers. I missed practices and games due to debate tournaments.

Despite my awful cheerleading habits, my captain and team kept faith. Teammates volunteered their free time to help me prepare for practices. One girl spent lunches going over the routine with me after I'd managed to forget it overnight.

At cheerleading practices, we don't gush about clothing and manicures. We work. Unlike football and basketball players, we don't play in games. Instead, we compete in lengthy, intense tournaments. We don't score baskets or make touchdowns, but we receive points on how creative our routine is, how tight our moves are. Judges subtract points for errors.

Cheerleading is dangerous. None of our cheerleaders was seriously injured this season, but when you look at recent statistics for annual cheerleading casualties on a national level, the number of emergency room visits for cheerleaders was 27,726.

Our stunts include toe touches, twists, and heel stretches performed by flyers, girls who are tossed into the air. Bases and backers must be strong enough not to drop flyers. If the group is not united as one, girls could easily break or sprain limbs. Consequently, stunts demand teamwork and trust. Just as football players require game plans to score touchdowns, cheerleaders must collaborate to lift stunts.

This season, I became part of a team. I began feeling guilty about missed practices. When I did attend practices, my muscles ached afterwards. After getting home, I slept for two hours. Cheerleading is a physical endurance sport that deserves as much kudos as basketball, soccer, or football earn. Take it from someone who was ignorant.

NEWS

Amnesty members Mikaela Buchinski and Erin Crocker in NY rights protest

AMNESTY

Continued from page 2

activists lined the streets and chanted "Free Fathi". Mohamed el-Jahmi addressed the crowds and the press which formed around the protestors, called for the release of his brother, and thanked the activists for their support.

While some believe that protests held in the United States have little or no effect on issues half way across the world, LHS Amnesty members see protests as successful awareness raising tools. "In this situation, the only way we can create any sort of change in Libya is to show that the world is watching" said Erin Crocker.

Lexington High School Amnesty members also took part in demonstrations which called for the immediate arrest of Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb, who are suspected of committing crimes against humanity in Darfur.

After a twenty month long investigation, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued warrants of arrests for both Harun and Kushayb, who are senior members of the government of Sudan and the Janjawid. Because of their high ranking positions, Harun and Kushayb continue to walk free. Amnesty International believes that the refusal of the government to arrest the two men confirms the fact that the government has no intention of bringing justice and peace to the region.

Over the last four years, Amnesty International at LHS has worked to bring local awareness to the genocide in Darfur. From distributing fliers of information to selling "Save Darfur" tee-shirts and hosting the "Jamnesty" band night, raising funds and awareness for the victims in Darfur has remained a key goal for LHS' Amnesty group.

"For the past four years, I've worked locally with Amnesty to raise awareness about the genocide in Darfur. But, there's something really amazing about standing with a thousand people in front of the Sudanese Mission, calling for justice in Darfur," said Dina Nash, "I feel as if we reached, and possibly influenced, a much larger group of people."

The current nonviolent struggle for democracy in Myanmar (Burma) was also a focus for LHS students and human rights activists in New York. It is estimated that there are currently over 1,800 political prisoners in Myanmar, who have been imprisoned for nonviolent protests of the one-party military rule in Burma.

The innocent people who have been imprisoned in Myanmar (Burma) are subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment, including torture. Amnesty activists called upon the military junta in Myanmar (Burma) to release all prisoners of conscience, including democratic leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who is currently under house arrest.

"The terrible oppression the people of Burma have been subjected to is heartbreaking. Calling for Aung San Suu Kyi's unconditional release is extremely important because she is a beacon of hope for the people of Burma," said Mikaela Buchinski.

Activists joined Burmese Monks in calling for the unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience in Burma, including the elderly U Win Tin."The international community needs to communicate to the military junta in Burma that we are aware of the atrocities they are committing there, and that we will not tolerate violations of human rights," said Emma Kantrov.

Dina Nash agreed that this is especially important after Cyclone Nargis. "The importance of the protests for the release of prisoners of conscience in Burma is only intensified by the tragedy of Cyclone Nargis. More pressure needs to be placed on the military junta in Burma, not only for the release of innocent people, but for the human rights of the people of Burma."

Lexington High School students left the day long protests in New York City with a truly positive experience and outlook for the future.

"While I was protesting in New York, I felt like I was making a difference," said Erin Crocker, "Only time will tell whether we had a significant impact on the issues we protested, but I know that raising awareness is one of the most important tools for bringing about change."

Senior Assassins Vie For No. 1

Continued from page 1

mask on. A banker mistook him for a possible robber, and the police was called.

Instances like these were not rare- our phone bills are proof. At times I would be on the phone for several hours settling disputes that most people would agree to be trivial when money was not the issue. Likewise, I received text messages throughout the school day as assassins tried to twist and turn around the rules in order to find a loophole by which they could secure a "kill".

When it came down to the final week, when there were only two people left in the whole game, the organizers breathed a sigh of relief. From over 250 initial participants the competition had been whittled down to one girl and one boy; Victoria Martinez and Adam Buczkowski. The two were given until Monday, May 26 to "kill" each other, but because they did not, the prize money will be split between them.

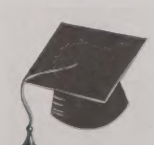
Luckily for Victoria, she managed to get 7 kills and hold on to that number in order to also secure the prize money for most kills.

This year's game was arguably the largest to ever take place at LHS. With record participation aand record excitement, it certainly was an engaging experience and a high point of my senior year, even though I didn't play.

Despite the problems we encountered, I'd love to see the game continue and expand. We, the judges, challenge the class of 2009 to top this game in participation.

Last but not least, we thank the administration for putting up with Assassins without too much hassle. So, class of 2009, let's see what you have!

Congratulations!
SENIORS 2008



Summer is almost here—
time for fun in the sun, barbeques,
and ...test preparation?

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The Princeton Review

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SPORTS

Baseball Team Comes Through In The Clutch

By Jake Friedman

After winning their last three games of the season, the first time they had won more than two games in a row all season-Lexington advanced to the Division 1 tournament. The situation did not favor the Minutemen since they finished with a regular season record of 10-10 which meant that they were the 24th and last seed in the North Division.

Lexington was paired against Waltham in the first round. The Minutemen were able to pull out a 6-4 upset over their 9th seeded opponent. Although Lexington would go on to lose 13-1 to Salem in the next round, the previous four victories made for a terrific finish to an otherwise disappointing season.

The first 17 games of the season were not what anyone could have expected for the 2008 varsity baseball team. The minutemen underachieved against some teams, losing twice to Wakefield, which finished four games below 500, and overachieved against others like Belmont, which was their first victory of the season.

The individual performances followed a similar pattern. Arguably Lexington's most consistent player was senior captain Jack Barons. Barons started at first base and was a major source of power at the plate for the Minutemen throughout the season. Jim Borden, another senior, was consistently strong as a reliever on the mound. Juniors Tyler Goulet and Thompson Bond were both strong in the outfield, as was senior Patrick Hunter.

Senior Mike Kent was a major contributor in the infield as well as at the plate. Lexington suffered a major loss when Kent was forced to sit out the last several games of the season with a broken collar bone. Junior John Savage was solid on defense, playing both shortstop and second base., as well as a consistent threat at the plate. Seniors Kris Camelio, Lee Smith, Pedro Barbosa, Greg Johnson, Ed Meyers, and Scott Trabuco all came through when they were called upon whether it was in the field or at the plate. The Minutemen also received strong play from their only two sophomores, Thomas McKenna and Matt Wentzel. Both had clutch hits that contributed to wins as well as consistent play from the field.

The biggest surprise of the season was the play of the freshman. Three freshmen made the varsity squad-a very large number for a team that only takes around 18 players. Scoop Ruxin saw time at the catcher position and proved to be a brick wall from behind the plate.

Dmitri Monovoukas played great in field at both second base and shortstop. Monovoukas was also extremely successful at the plate. Wil Marcal was simply a star. Marcal was phenomenal from the mound for the majority of the season, with a 3-1 win loss record through 19 games. Although he struggled from the mound towards the end of the season, Marcal was consistently great at the plate. Marcal also seemed to be the one coming up with the big hits when Lexington needed them, including his game-winning single against Everett that clinched a tournament appearance. The play of Ruxin, Monovoukas and Marcal is an indicator of the bright future of Lexington baseball.

The biggest story of the season for Lexington was Curt Everett. Everett, a senior and a captain, was Lexington's number one pitcher; however, he struggled from the mound for the majority of the season. Big things were expected of Everett this year. As a junior, Everett, had pitched for a record of 8-2 and had a 1.67 earned run average.

This year, through the first 19 games of the season, he was just 1-5. However, Everett made up for his struggles on the mound at the plate. Everett had a batting average of .323 and scored 17 runs through 19 games. Most importantly, Everett was there when Lexington needed him.

In the last game of the regular season against Everett High School, after having caught eight innings, he came in to finish the game from the mound. Everett pitched three scoreless innings, helping his team go on to win in the eleventh by a score of 6-5.

Boys Tennis Advances

By Andrew Silberman

As the Lexington boys tennis team opened the post-season tournament with a resounding 5-0 first round victory over Masconomet. Unfortunately, late spring rainouts have stretched out the schedule of the boys' matches longer than they would have wished.

The team entered the North Sectional tourney as the sixth seed, their late season momentum was slowed by a surprise upset at the hands of Burlington in the Mintumen's last league match. Lexington came in with a strong 15-2 record in the league, but Burlington played the role of the spoiler, beating Lexington 3-2. Lexington earned wins from its number 2 singles player Sam Pollock and the second doubles team of Jeremy Weiser and Andrew Herrera. With their number 1 player, Cameron Ghorbani, forced to sit out with an injury, junior Isaac Fuhrman stepped up in to take Ghorbani's place, but he fell to Burlington senior star Rushab Tanna.

Ultimately, Lexington wound up the regular season with a 15-3 record in league play,finishing in a tie for second place with the Red Devils from Burlington.

In the regular season, Lexington's players displayed remarkable consistency while almost everyone on the team got varsity playing time at one point or another. Lexington's boys showed the Middlesex League that they are a force to be reckoned with, and will be for years to come as all but one regular varsity player will return next year.

Team members like sophomore Cameron Ghorbani, who did not lose a match all year at the number one singles spot, and second singles player Isaac Fuhrman will lead the Minutemen into the playoffs and the future. Arjun Thomke, sophomore Jeremy Weiser, sophomore Andrew Herrera, and junior Nate Meyers all saw significant success in a series of key matches.

Sports Briefs

Boys and Girls Track

The boys and girls track performers came up big at the recent Division One state meet held at Lincoln-Sudbury's new track. On the boys side Ricardo Sanon finished a close second in the 400 meter run while Daishawn Beaumont finished sixth in the long jump with a leap of 21-1 1/2 feet.

In the girls meet Martha Zimmerman finished 4th in the 400 meter run, Shareen Salem took a 2nd in the high jump and Allison Crooke finished an impressive 3rd in the long jump. None of the relay teams placed in the final six but the girls did finish 10th in the team scoring.

Boys Lacrosse

The boys lacrosse team defeated a tough Lowell squad 11-5 in the quarterfinals of the Division One tournament, which earned them a ticket to take on a very highly regarded Billerica squad in the semifinals. Unfortunately the LHS squad was knocked out by their Merrimack Valley opponent 17-10. Once again the boys were led in the tournament by the scoring of Bill Bleakly and Tyler Gelnaw and the outstanding goal work of Alex Sullivan in the net. Stellar defense was provided by seniors Mike Foster, Bennett Erickson and Nick Page.

Girls Lacrosse

Meanwhile the girls lacrosse team looked like they were going to stay alive in their post-season tournment with a impressive 18-16 victory over Masconomet in their Division One sectional quarterfinal match. Unfortunately like the boys, they too ran into a powerhouse in Lincoln Sudbury in the semifinals and were routed by a 16-7 score.

Girls Tennis

The girls tennis team was quickly dispatched from post season competition in the first round when they were shut out 5-0 by a highly ranked squad from Westford Academy.

Menemsha MacBain

The girls outdoor track team prepped for a meet against longtime rival Reading High School.

Softballers Move Through Tourney

By Scott Saveriano

After eeking out a tense 2-1, extra inning victory over Chelmsford in the first round of the sectional tournament, the girls softball team routed Malden 13-0 in their second post-season game. The Malden victory put the girls into the semi-finals against Methuen. The girls went into the post-season seeded second in their division and so far have played up to expectations. The softball team finished another successful regular season. with an 18-2 record and their second Middlesex League title in as many years. The team, led by senior captain Amanda McKenna and junior captains Kiki Saveriano and Sarah Heingartner, was able to protect their high seed in the tournament and knock off Chelmsford in extra innings. After nine gritty innings of suspenseful softball, the LHS squad had runners at first and second.but also had two outs on them Tied at 1-1 at the bottom of the inning, the girls only needed one run to walk off with the win. First baseman Joelle Zahka was just the person for the job. With the swift swing of her bat and a hard shot to center field, Zahka's clutch connection was just enough to score Saveriano from second base, ensuring both the victory and at least one more game in the tourney.

Aside from their record and playoff performance, the softball squad has had some individual success as well. The nearly invincible Kiki Saveriano netted both Middlesex League MVP and Middlesex League All-Star honors as the team's starting pitcher. Joelle Zahka, Alyssa Zahka and Sarah Heingartner received All-Star nods, as well. You can catch the LHS softball team at their next tournament game; you can guarantee that I'll be there.